



Tempe Public Art



Virginia Senior

Metal Gateway, 1995

Project Assistant: Jeff Oesterle

Steel, glass, solar panels, river rock
and cast aluminum panels

Location:

Entrance to TCA Art Park

Description: Commissioned through a design competition in 1995, these gates were originally installed at the entrance to the Sculpture Garden at Tempe Arts Center. The double gates pivot on steel shafts, and incorporate steel, glass, solar panels, river rocks, and cast aluminum panels. The gates are lit internally by fluorescent lighting powered by solar panels custom sized to fit to the top of the gate. The gates have custom cast aluminum panels with one inch-thick chunks of colored glass imbedded into them. When open, the light shines through and glistens off the polished surface of the faceted aluminum. When closed, the zigzag crack glows with color. Conceptually the gates are like a geode, rough and rustic on the outside, but when broken open, a crystalline surface is revealed. The gate is currently located at the entrance to TCA Art Park.

Artist biography: Virginia Senior received her degree in architecture from Arizona State University in 1985. Since then, she has worked in architectural firms in Los Angeles and Boston. In 1992 she relocated to Phoenix, AZ to form the award-winning *Senior/Oesterle Architecture + Art* with partners Jeff Oesterle and Rebecca Senior. Senior has a solid architectural foundation in the public sector, especially in the areas of transportation and housing. Completed projects include Dudley Station, Transitway South Station and Jamaica Plain Housing. The daughter of a silversmith, Senior excels within many artistic disciplines including: architecture, furniture design, sculpture, jewelry, and graphic design.

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